

MAY SESSION
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.

The Board met. Mr. Dennis Bork in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The roll was called, and all members were present, except Mr. William Bruegger and Mr. Weiss, who were both excused. Others in attendance for all or portions of the meeting were Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Ms. Felicia Decker, Mr. Briar Golden, Ms. Jamie Weaver, Mr. Joe Krumrie, and Mr. Kevin Masarik. Mr. Nels Anderson, Mr. Dave Brommerich, Ms. Josie Knauber, and Mr. Nathan Nelson joined via Teams.

Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Public Comments: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #22-05-01 A Resolution to Create and Fill an Administrative Veterans Benefit Specialist Position: Ms. Decker explained this position has been approved and supported by her home committee. Funds for the position will come from the budgeted position that is vacant. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Resolution #22-05-02 A Resolution for Buffalo County Recycling to Sponsor 2023 Clean Sweep Program: The clean sweep program is held every other year and funded by a grant and matching funds or in-kind services. The grant amount is \$21,000.00 and Buffalo County's portion is \$5,200.00. If the program is successful Buffalo County would need to cover any overages and will budget an additional \$5,000.00 for this. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Buffalo County Baseline Groundwater Quality/Well Sampling Project: Ms. Weaver and Mr. Masarik spoke regarding well water sampling, how the wells will be chosen and what will be done with the results. There will be 315 wells sampled for bacteria, nitrates, herbicides, and pesticides. A discussion was held on allowing homeowners to take their own sample versus hiring interns to do the sampling. The nitrate threshold was discussed. There is a correlation between high nitrate levels and herbicide/pesticide levels. Mr. Masarik indicated that the sampling could be done in June and July of 2023 and reports could be finished and presented by December of 2023. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the well sampling program at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.00, to set the nitrate level at 2 mg/L, and to have the project and reports completed by December 2023, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Opioid Settlement: Mr. VanDeWalle explained there will be a meeting on May 31st to review options with counties regarding the options of payments over 18 years or a one-time lump sum payment. He will keep the members updated as this progresses.

Committee Chair Reports:

- DHHS is still looking for a Financial Clerk. There is an interview set up for tomorrow.
- Ms. McMillan Urell attended the Western Dairyland and LEO organizational meetings.
- Recycling is still working with BBC&M on their transition to a contracted recycling vendor. Cyrus has accepted the high bid on the building and will be taking it down to make room for a transfer facility.
- Land Conservation is working with UW Extension on planting of hazel nut trees. There has been nothing new to report on the Buffalo White Sands issue.
- HR held their organizational meetings and reviewed PTO usage, and additional retirement benefits employees can voluntarily participate in.
- Law Enforcement is still looking for Communications/Corrections Officers.
- Finance approved an update on the pay relating to COVID-19 using ARPA funds. This will be paid out to employees that are eligible in June.

A reminder to all Supervisors to call the Chair of the Committee if they are unable to make a meeting. This is a requirement per the Rules of Government. Ms. Halverson will send out a spreadsheet showing who is on each committee, who the Chair is and contact information for the Chair.

Administrative Coordinator Report: The Grant Writer position is still on hold pending talks with Pierce County. They are interested in sharing this position with us. The Zoning Administrator position is also on hold pending talks with Trempealeau County who is interested in combining those services. The Economic Development Coordinator position has been on hold to see if another county would like to share that position. Pierce County is hesitant, and Pepin County has no funds for this position. Mr. VanDeWalle will be talking with 7 Rivers Alliance and Mississippi River Regional Planning for ideas regarding this position. The new financial system is still in the works. It will take 7-9 months to complete the transition between programs. Chris Woda will be the new Maintenance Personnel. He will begin June 13th. Itechra is willing to do personalized training on the tablets if any Supervisors need to.

County Board Chair Report: The 2020 audit was sent to everyone via email. This will not be presented as the 2021 should be ready in a few months.

Public Comments: Mr. Ruff would like DHHS to look into using some ARPA funds to help the Highway Department pay for additional mowing to control the spread of wild parsnip. The state will only pay for 1 mowing and by the time that mowing can occur the seeds from the parsnip will be spread by the mowers.

Mr. Stanton visited the Andy Herold property and is in favor of sending a letter to the DNR supporting the construction area Mr. Herold would like to build his new home on. Ms. McMillan Urell would like to have the Town of Cross contacted to get their input into this issue before allowing anything to proceed.

Next meeting date and time is Monday, June 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Sendelbach made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk